

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

ENGINEER'S OFFICE TAR RIVER IMPROVEMENT,
Greenville, N. C., Nov. 20th, 1856.

DR. W. J. BLOW, R. L. MYERS, ESQ., *Com'rs*:

Gentlemen: In closing operations on Tar River Improvement, it necessarily becomes my duty to submit to you a report of general proceedings, since my first connection with the work. I will have to arrange it in the following manner, viz: First, the condition of the work, when I first entered upon my duties; secondly, the prosecution and progress of the work, to the present time, and its present condition. In the month of July, 1855, Mr. James C. Turner, who had been appointed engineer in charge of the work, conferred on me the appointment of assistant engineer. On the 24th of the month aforesaid, I entered upon my duties, with instructions to examine and ascertain the precise condition of the work; what was necessary for the further prosecution of said work, and if possible, its successful completion. The first duty assigned me having been performed, I beg leave to state that I found the work in the following condition: There was a dredge boat provided, pump, engine and pile driver, and several small flats, together with tools and lumber, all of which were necessary to carry on the work. The coffer dam had been constructed, and the piling for the foundation of the lock driven; a portion of the timber, plank, bolts, spikes and iron for the gates, provided, but the quality and dimensions of timber and plank, I regret to say, were any thing but suitable for what they were designed.

In the first place, no regard seemed to have been paid to lengths, widths, thickness of planks, or sizes of timber, as a variety of sizes existed in the same piece of timber; in fact, it was the case with all furnished, which was far short of the